

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 19 and 31, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 1, 17, 18, 20, 29, and 30, and add new Claims 32-41. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication system comprising:

a controller;

a destination node including first and second input registers; and

a source node including first and second output registers,

wherein said controller is adapted to access the first and the second input registers and the first and the second output registers, and

wherein said controller is adapted to obtain information about a communication capability of said source node from ~~[[a]] the first output register of said source node~~, to obtain information about a communication capability of said destination node from ~~[[a]] the first input register of said destination node~~, to select a first or a second communication protocol using the information obtained from the first output and input registers to set a logical connection between said source node and said destination node, to store information indicating for the selected communication protocol selected by said controller and information for the ~~selected communication protocol logical connection set by said controller in [[a]] the second output register of said source node~~, and to store information indicating for the selected

communication protocol selected by said controller and information for the selected  
communication protocol logical connection set by said controller in [[a]] the second input  
register of said destination node, and

wherein said source node is adapted to transfer object data to said destination  
node asynchronously using the first or the second communication protocol selected by said  
controller.

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Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): A communication system according to Claim  
1, wherein the first communication protocol is a communication protocol that uses a broadcast  
communication.

Claims 5 and 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): A communication system according to Claim  
1, wherein the second communication protocol is a communication protocol that does not use a  
broadcast communication.

Claims 8-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A communication system according to Claim 1, wherein said controller, said source node, and said destination node [[can]] are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit connectable to a serial bus.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A communication system according to Claim 1, wherein said controller, said source node, and said destination node [[can]] are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit conforming to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A communication method for a communication system that includes a controller, a destination node including first and second input registers, and a source node including first and second output registers, wherein the controller is adapted to access the first and the second input registers and the first and the second output registers, [[the]] said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining~~[[, of]]~~ information about a communication capability of the source node from ~~[[a]] the first output register of the source node;~~

obtaining~~[[, of]]~~ information about a communication capability of the destination node from ~~[[a]] the first input register of the destination node;~~

selecting~~[[, of]]~~ a first or a second communication protocol using the

information obtained from the first output and input registers;

setting[[, of]] a logical connection between the source node and the destination node;

storing[[, of]] information indicating for the selected communication protocol selected in said selecting step and information for the selected communication protocol logical connection set in said setting step in [[a]] the second output register of the source node;

storing[[, of]] information indicating for the selected communication protocol selected in said selecting step and information for the selected communication protocol logical connection set in said setting step in [[a]] the second input register of the destination node; and

~~transferring of object data from the source node to the destination node asynchronously using the selected communication protocol.~~

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Claims 21-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): A communication method according to Claim 20, wherein the first communication protocol is a communication protocol that uses a broadcast communication.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A communication method according to Claim 20, wherein the second communication protocol is a communication protocol that does not use a broadcast communication.

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Claim 29 (currently amended): A communication method according to Claim 20, wherein the controller, the source node, and the destination node [[can]] are adapted to communication with each other using a communication unit connectable to a serial bus.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A communication method according to Claim 20, wherein the controller, the source node, and the destination node [[can]] are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit conforming to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

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Claim 31 (canceled)

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Claim 32 (new): A controller, which controls a logical connection between a source node that includes first and second output registers and a destination node that includes first and second input registers, wherein said controller is adapted to access the first and second input registers and the first and second output registers, said controller comprising:  
a controlling unit adapted to obtain information about a communication capability of the source node from the first output register, to obtain information about a communication capability of the destination node from the first input register, to select a first or a second communication protocol using the information obtained from the first output and input registers, to set a logical connection between the source node and the destination node, to store information for the selected communication protocol and information for the set logical

connection in the second output register, and to store information for the selected communication protocol and information for the set logical connection in the second input register.

Claim 33 (new): A controller according to claim 32, wherein the first communication protocol is a communication protocol that uses a broadcast communication.

Claim 34 (new): A controller according to claim 32, wherein the second communication protocol is a communication protocol that does not use a broadcast communication.

Claim 35 (new): A controller according to claim 32, wherein the source node and the destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit connectable to a serial bus.

Claim 36 (new): A controller according to claim 32, wherein the source node and the destination node are adapted to communication with each other using a communication unit conforming to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claim 37 (new): A method for a controller, which controls a logical connection between a source node that includes first and second output registers and a destination node that includes first and second input registers, wherein the controller is adapted

to access the first and second input registers and the first and second output registers, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information about a communication capability of the source node from the first output register;

obtaining information about a communication capability of the destination node from the first input register;

selecting a first or a second communication protocol using the information obtained from the first output and input registers;

setting a logical connection between the source node and the destination node;

storing information for the communication protocol selected in said selecting step and information for the logical connection set in said setting step in the second output register; and

storing information for the communication protocol selected in said selecting step and information for the logical connection set in said setting step in the second input register.

Claim 38 (new): A method according to claim 37, wherein the first communication protocol is a communication protocol that uses a broadcast communication.

Claim 39 (new): A method according to claim 37, wherein the second communication protocol is a communication protocol that does not use a broadcast

communication.

Claim 40 (new): A method according to claim 37, wherein the source node and the destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit connectable to a serial bus.

Claim 41 (new): A method according to claim 37, wherein the source node and the destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit conforming to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.